

Midleton Parish Newsletter (Covid Times)
3rd January 2021, Second Sunday of Christmas

Clergy in the Parish:

Priests: Rt. Rev. Msgr. Jim Killeen, P.P., V.G. 021-4631750
V. Rev. John Ryan, P.E., C.C. 086-2697503
Rev. Mark Hehir, C.C. 021-4621670
Rt. Rev. Msgr. Eamon Goold, P.E., 021-4633659

Deacon: Rev. Edward Mulhare

Priest on Duty: 087-246 8234 (For emergencies and also arranging wedding bookings)

The Parish Office will re-open on Monday, January 4th 2021 under level 5 guidelines. Hours as follows: Monday to Thursday – ring between 10 and 11am. Any documentation (e.g. Baptismal certs) can be requested and anyone who wishes to get Mass Cards or Mass Bouquets can give the details and then documentation or cards can be collected on Friday at the office between 10.30 - 11.30am. Phone 021-4636508.

Parish website: midletonparish.ie Parish e-mail: midletonparishoffice@gmail.com and to access the webcam for Masses log on to www.churchservices.tv and enter 'midleton' in the search box.

Mass times

Sunday,	Saturday Vigil	6.10pm
	Sunday Morning	8am, 10am and Noon

Weekday Masses: Monday to Friday 8am and 10am; Saturday 10am in line with Covid19 restrictions. The restrictions are at level 5. No Congregations for daily and Sunday Masses until further notice. All Masses will be televised on Saorview and on the internet. The Church will be opened after the 10am Mass for private prayer and closed at 5pm.

Wednesday of this week is the Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord. Masses on Wednesday are: 8am; 10am; Noon and 7.30pm. Televised and on the website. No Congregation in the church.

Night Prayer at 8pm every evening.

Funerals will have a maximum of 10 people and weddings are reduced to 6.

No exposition during Level 5. With the Eucharist present in the tabernacle, Adoration can still be done privately as the church is open for private prayer.

Feast days this week: Tuesday January 5th, St. Charles of St. Andrew (1821-1893) Born in Holland, he became a Passionist priest in 1846 and came to Mount Argus in Dublin in 1857. Was renowned as a confessor and a supporter of the poor of the city.; Wednesday January 6th, Feast of the Epiphany of the Lord; Thursday January 7th, St Raymond of Penyafort (1175-1275) was a brilliant lawyer who joined the Dominicans at age 47. Became Master General of the Dominicans and later the Archbishop of Tarragona, Patron Saint of Canon Lawyers.

The Pope's Intentions for January – Intention for Evangelisation – Human Fraternity. “May the Lord give us the grace to live in full fellowship with our brothers and sisters of other religions, praying for one another, open to all.”

Pope Francis, "Fratelli tutti" – Pope Francis finished Chapter One with two paragraphs on hope and begins Chapter Two, nn.56-86, entitled 'A Stranger on the Road' referring to the importance of keeping a sense of joy and hope in the midst of the negative aspects of our world. In this chapter he uses the Parable of the Good Samaritan to highlight aspects of how we can develop a sense of fraternity in our world. In the first paragraph of the chapter (n.56) he begins by referring to chapter one and how we must deal with the things we read about in it:

56. *"The previous chapter should not be read as a cool and detached description of today's problems, for 'the joys and hopes, the grief and anguish of the people of our time, especially of those who are poor or afflicted, are the joys and hopes, the grief and anguish of the followers of Christ as well. Nothing that is genuinely human fails to find an echo in their hearts'. [53] In the attempt to search for a ray of light in the midst of what we are experiencing, and before proposing a few lines of action, I now wish to devote a chapter to a parable told by Jesus Christ two thousand years ago. Although this Letter is addressed to all people of good will, regardless of their religious convictions, the parable is one that any of us can relate to and find challenging."*

Then he quotes the Parable of the Good Samaritan. The chapter goes on to explore a number of issues in the light of the parable and is broken into a number of sub-sections: (i) The context nn.57-62; (ii) Abandoned on the wayside nn.63-68; (iii) A story constantly retold nn.69-71; (iv) The characters of the story nn.72-76; (v) Starting anew nn.77-79; (vi) Neighbours without borders nn.80-83; (vii) The plea of the stranger nn.84-86.

"Bible Corner" – During the Christmas season the Prologue of John's Gospel is used three times in the liturgy: for the Day Mass on Christmas Day, the 7th Day of the Octave of Christmas 31st December and on the Second Sunday of Christmas. John, as he writes the prologue, teases the message of who Jesus is and what his mission is, bit by bit and presents a powerful reflection on Jesus as Word and John as the one who prepares the way. The lines "The Word was made flesh, he lived among us, and we saw his glory, the glory that is his as the only Son of the Father, full of grace and truth." John the Apostle and Evangelist witnessed the glory of Jesus and testifies to it. He recognises the Father-Son connection and that the Son is 'full of grace and truth'. Further down he speaks of what we receive through Jesus: "Indeed, from his fullness we have, all of us, received – yes, grace in return for grace, since, though the Law was given through Moses, grace and truth have come through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God; it is the only Son, who is nearest to the Father's heart, who has made him known." John acknowledges that the fullness of revelation comes through Jesus Christ the Word made flesh. The Jesus born as a child in a stable as described by Matthew and Luke.

The priests of the parish wish to thank all of you for your generosity over the Christmas season and right through the past year in the most difficult and strange times we have encountered. Thank you also for all the support in so many different ways as we came to grips with dealing with what we had to do within the restrictions placed upon us all in so many different ways. Be assured of our prayers for you all and all who are dear to you at home and afar. As we enter 2021, even though a level 5 has been placed on us all, may we bring the hope that Christ brings to the world with us in our hearts and in this year of St. Joseph, let us ask him to guide and protect us as he did, Mary and Jesus, through good, difficult and challenging times that came their way. St. Joseph pray for us.

Quote: with Thursday being the feast of the patron saint of canon law the quote today is based on the last canon in the Code of Canon Law. *"The supreme law is the salvation of souls"*